

CONFIDENTIAL

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OCT 27 1951

Mr. Leon Keyserling
Chairman
Council of Economic Advisers
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Keyserling:

Among my responsibilities as Director of Central Intelligence is the requirement to provide the President and the National Security Council with National Intelligence Estimates. These estimates are based on a pooling of the best information available to all intelligence agencies of the Government operating in the foreign field and, before completion, they are reviewed by the Intelligence Advisory Committee composed of the chiefs of all the intelligence agencies sitting under my chairmanship.

In the performance of my estimating function, I have within the Central Intelligence Agency a Board of National Estimates consisting of eight members chosen from the academic world and from the armed services. In order to assure adequate consideration of economic factors in international affairs, I regard it as necessary that this Board include at least one trained economist of high competence. We were very fortunate at the outset to have as a member of the Board [redacted]

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[redacted] who made a notable contribution to to the development of the National Intelligence Estimates. Unhappily [redacted] was obliged for reasons of health to withdraw from government service and I have for some time been exploring various measures to replace him.

From inquiries which have been made, I have reason to believe that [redacted] who is presently on your staff is ideally trained and experienced for the work of the Board of National Estimates. From very informal discussions with [redacted] by members of my staff, it appears that [redacted]

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[] might be interested in such an assignment. I would not, however, want such discussions to go any further without the request that you consider the possibility of releasing [] to this Agency. I understand that in any event [] would have to close out his present work and would not be available until sometime in January 1952.

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I would very much appreciate your giving this request sympathetic consideration. I think I can say that the position I am trying to fill is one of real importance and great responsibility and that [] could make a valuable contribution in this field. If agreeable to you, I would like to have a personal talk with [] but I shall not of course go further in this matter without your approval.

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Sincerely,

SIGNED

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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